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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



1959

AMBLE URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
&
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year 1959.

The most notable feature in this report is the rise in the rates for stillbirths and infant deaths which interrupts the very favourable trend I have hitherto reported. It is hoped that this rise is just a temporary feature, and it must be borne in mind that the numbers are small and, consequently, rates are liable to fluctuate considerably. The causes of the infant deaths are shown in Table 3. The number of stillbirths in 1958 and 1957 was one in each case, giving respective stillbirth rates of 11.23 and 12.50 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths. This compares with the 1959 rate of 30.61, and the national rate of 20.7. On the other hand, the infant mortality rate during these years was nil, and for 1959 rose to 31.58 per 1,000 total live births, against a national rate of 22.0.

The crude death rate fell slightly this year from 12.06 to 11.22 per 1,000 of the population, or numerically from 59 to 55, although the female deaths rose by 5, and male deaths fell proportionately. The chief killer again appeared to be diseases of the heart and circulatory system, and this group was divided as follows: 10 caused by "strokes", 10 by coronary heart disease, 5 from other heart disease, and 2 from other circulatory disease, giving a total of 27 out of 55 deaths, or approximately 50% of total deaths, which is 7% lower than for the previous year. Coronary thrombosis accounted for 18% of total deaths, compared with 15% for 1958. I have again divided deaths from coronary thrombosis into a classification of occupational groups according to the Registrar General's classification:-

Classification	Males	Females
Class 1 (Professional etc.)	-	-
Class 2 (Intermediate occupations)	-	- (1)
Class 3 (Skilled occupations)	1 *(1)	1 (3)
Class 4 (Partly skilled occupations)	- (1)	-
Class 5 (Unskilled occupations)	- (2)	-
Totals	1 (4)	1 (4)

*Figures in brackets are deaths at age of 65 years and over

Cancer deaths rose from 7 to 8 or 14% of all deaths, although diseases from lung cancer actually fell from 3 to 1. The main increase occurred under the heading Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.

Accidental deaths accounted for 6, 3 being due to motor vehicle accidents, 2 as a result of drowning, and 1 in an elderly person which was the sequel of a fall at her home. Details are given in Table 2.

The estimated population increased again, this time by 10, compared with an increase of 80 in the previous year's estimate. Births exceeded deaths by 40.

Measles showed its usual biennial rise, resulting in 99 notifications compared with none for 1958, and 93 cases in 1957. There was also the regular visitation of dysentery, 18 cases being notified, but were only confined to a few families. From information supplied to me by general practitioners, and in particular from Dr. Robertson, it was evident that there was a mild epidemic of influenza during February and March which was not so severe or widespread as the Asian Influenza. Many of the cases in children were ushered in by vomiting, and in adults many complained of pain in one or other side of the lower chest, especially the left.

The case of diphtheria was discovered by the family doctor who, conscientiously and regularly, takes throat swabs, and on this occasion the disease was not clinically recognisable, but the bacteriological report from the laboratory demonstrated an organism of the Mitis type. The patient was aged forty-nine, and his contacts were checked and no carrier was found. The patient was not very ill, and his recovery uneventful. Fortunately, no further case was reported. This case demonstrated the need for continued vigilance and a high rate of immunisation among children who are more susceptible to the disease. It is very pleasing and reassuring to note from Table 7 that the index of immunity for the district is still high, and again this is largely due to the efforts of the local general practitioners. In Table 7 it will be seen that Amble again leads with the highest immunity index in North No. 2 Area, and in fact has the highest index for North Northumberland.

Vaccinations against smallpox, as shown in Table 8, are not so satisfactory, only 38 receiving smallpox vaccine against a total of 95 children receiving the primary course of immunisation.

In 1958 I reported that 85% of the children in North Northumberland had received poliomyelitis vaccine, and this percentage has now increased to 94% as shown in the Table below. The response to the campaign for vaccination against poliomyelitis has been most gratifying, and compares very favourably with the rest of the County.

1 - 15 Age Group

12,751 children received two injections (94%) out of an estimated population of 13,573.

15 - 25 Age Group

3,831 persons received two injections (54%) out of an estimated population of 7,040.

<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	575
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<u>Doctors and Families</u>	41
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<u>Ambulance Staff and Families</u>	17
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<u>Hospital Staff</u>	57
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A total of 17,272 received two injections since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1959.

Of these, 12,940 received their third injection - approximately 75%.

Again there was no death from tuberculosis, and only two new cases were notified, compared with 3 notifications during 1958.

Much more progress was made during the year with the Slum Clearance Programme: a total of 55 properties were represented and confirmed by the Council. This represents just over half of the number estimated in the five year programme submitted to the Ministry in 1955, and the same rate of progress will be required to complete the objective.

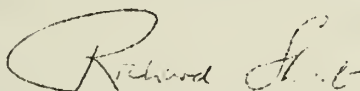
There has been very little improvement in the number of earth closets remaining in the town, and I feel more positive action is now required by the Council to ensure that this insanitary relic of the past is eradicated.

Another very unsatisfactory thing which can also legally be resolved under Section 30 of the Water Act, 1949, and Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is the lack of water in pipes in the houses. There are still far too many standpipes in back yards, and if landlords continue to ignore the incentive of Improvement Grants and Standard Grants then some

statutory action is called for. As stated in the Public Health Inspector's Report, only 9 Improvement Grants were made during the year, and of these, 8 were for owner occupied properties. Surely the inhabitants of these sub-standard dwellings are entitled to modern standards of amenity and comfort. I am certain that the majority of these tenants would be willing to pay the increased rent to which the owner is entitled, if he carries out works of improvement - i.e. the rent can be increased by an annual sum equal to 8% of his share of the cost. It would also appear to be a reasonable investment as the owner should recover his total outlay in twelve-and-a-half years, and would continue to receive the increased rent after this period if the property remained tenanted. Apart from this, the tenant would be happier and healthier, and the improvement in most cases could prevent the decline to slum conditions which invariably follow neglect.

This will be my last report to you before I leave the district to take up my new appointment in Edinburgh, and I should like to conclude it by expressing my sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee, and also to the other members of the Council for the many kindnesses I have received and for the continuing interest shown in the work of my department. I must also state that I have received excellent co-operation and help from Mr. R. Hogg, Clerk of the Council, Mr. T.B. Adamson, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector and his staff, and the Housing Officer. I have received the utmost help and co-operation from the local general practitioners. All this friendliness and assistance has made my work in the district most rewarding.

I am,
Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 1,220 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1,585 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 52.

The rateable value was £43,007 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £180.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,900 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	58	35	93
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>59</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>95</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 19.38

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 2.10

Stillbirths

Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births 30.61

Total live and still births 98

Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)

Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births 31.58
 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 32.26
 Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births 21.05

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births 21.05

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined
 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths 51.02

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths Nil
 Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	26	29	55
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			11.22
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			Nil
Deaths from Cancer			8

Table 1CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-
" " Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
" " Breast	-	-	-
" " Uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3	2	5
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	4	6	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	5	5	10
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Circulatory Disease	1	1	2
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	5	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All Other Accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>26</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>55</u>

Table 2ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Sex	Cause of Death	Age
<u>Males</u>	Multiple bodily injuries.	12
	Asphyxia due to drowning	13
	Multiple fractures of the skull. Was passenger in a motor car which came into collision with a stationary trailer.	40
<u>Females</u>	Drowning by sea water. Found drowned.	49
	Crush injury to chest with fractured spine and ribs and pelvis. Run over by motor lorry.	77
	Bronchopneumonia following a fracture of the femur sustained as a result of an accidental fall at her home. Fell after getting out of bed.	92

Table 3INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Asphyxia Neonatorum	5 mins.	Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Morpeth.
Prematurity	1 day	Hillcrest Maternity Home, Alnwick.
Acute Bronchiolitis	1 month	General Hospital, Newcastle.

Table 4INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria	1
Measles	99
Pneumonia	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	1
Encephalitis	-

Table 5

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30-39	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
40-49	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50-59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 6

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY REPORTS

<u>Results</u>	
<u>Throat and Nasal Specimens</u>	
C. Diphtheriae - variety Mitis	1
Coagulase positive staphylococci	4
Haemolytic Streptococci	18
Streptococcus Viridans	1
Vincent's spirillae and fusiform bacilli	1
	<u>25</u>
Negative	40
Total number of specimens taken	<u>65</u>
<u>Faecal Specimens</u>	
Salmonella Derby	1
Salmonella Senftenberg	2
Shigella Sonnei	<u>24</u>
	27
Negative	<u>34</u>
Total number of specimens taken	<u>61</u>

Table 7

IMMUNISATION

Primary Immunisation									Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections								
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	Total	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	25	29	-	54	
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	22	5	1	-	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	58	1	1	-	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Totals	80	6	2	1	-	-	-	89	-	-	-	-	26	31	-	57	

Immunity Index - North No. 2

<u>District</u>	<u>1-4 Age Group</u>	<u>Under 1 Age Group</u>
Alnwick U.D.	74.6	25.41
Alnwick R.D.	81.8	29.0
Amble U.D.	98.8	41.34
Rothbury R.D.	87.3	26.37
Average per cent for North No. 2	83.8

Table 8

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONSNorth No. 2

Number Vaccinated during Period							Number Re-vaccinated					
District	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	Total
Alnwick U.D.	56	31	4	-	3	94	-	-	-	1	13	14
Alnwick R.D.	102	62	15	6	8	193	-	2	-	5	32	39
Amble U.D.	16	15	1	5	1	38	-	-	-	1	3	4
Rothbury R.D.	37	29	1	5	-	72	-	1	1	1	15	18
Totals	211	137	21	16	12	397	-	3	1	8	63	75

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR1959

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my sixth Report on the work of the Department during the year.

Duties under the Housing Acts involved a major portion of working hours during the year and the Department now has the unique experience of operating the whole system of rehousing from the inspection of unfit houses to the preparation and serving all the necessary legislative documents, culminating in the movement of displaced persons to the new houses, the erection of which also being supervised in all stages by members of the Department following the resignation of the Clerk of Works.

Despite the pressure of this work, the caravan sites reached a peak both in numbers and financial income since their inception. All other statutory duties were carried out including 100% meat inspection.

Highway improvements effected included the resurfacing of Scott Street and Allison Street, whilst the rear access lane to Newburgh Street was scarified and carpeted in bitumen macadam.

The water supply was maintained during the year despite extreme drought conditions, and many members of the Council on the annual waterworks inspection were surprised at the various difficulties that had been surmounted in order to produce water.

Vandalism and the lack of civic pride continued to retard various schemes such as street lighting and maintenance of open spaces, and only when this is abated can Amble become more of a holiday resort and attract visitors.

In conclusion, I would thank Council members for their interest and co-operation, and to the staff for their willing service.

I am,

Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

T.B. ADAMSON

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector

HOUSINGStatistics for the year ending 31st December, 1959

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	WITH STATE ASSISTANCE	UNAIDED	TOTAL
(a) By local authority	37	-	37
(b) By private persons	-	15	15

Total number of inhabited houses in the district
including Council houses 1637

Total number of Council houses 289

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

Closing and Demolition Number of Houses

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas | 5 |
| 2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas | 5 |
| 3. Houses closed, not demolished | 1 |

Repairs

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 4. By informal action | 298 |
| 5. By owners following statutory notice | 6 |

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958
House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959

A. Discretionary Grants Number of Separate Houses

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Applications submitted to the local authority during the year | 13 |
| 2. Applications rejected | 4 |
| 3. Applications approved | 9 |
| 4. Total amounts paid by the Council | £1486. 0. 0. |
| 5. Average grant per house | £ 165. 0. 0. |
| 6. Number of grants approved since inception of the scheme | 74 |

B. Standard Grants

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of applications made for the period ending 31st December, 1959. | Nil |
|---|-----|

HOUSING

1959 saw the completion of the 12th Development (37 houses) on the Links resulting in the rehousing of thirty-seven families totalling one hundred and one persons.

Plans were laid and work commenced in November on the next (13th) Development consisting of 14 houses and 8 bungalows. The total of 57 dwellings represents over the half-way mark in the Council's programme of one hundred houses.

Housing surveys continue to be made under the direction of the Medical Officer, and representations for a further ~~16~~ houses had been confirmed by the Council at the end of the year. ⁵⁵

Nine Improvement Grants were made during the year, and of these, eight were for owner-occupied property. It is most disappointing to see such a lack of interest shown by owners of tenanted property, much of which in Amble, could easily be improved to modern standards by this means.

It was anticipated that there would be a spate of enquiries and applications following the introduction of the "Standard Grant" under the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, and yet up to 31st December, 1959, no applications were received.

The National Coal Board commenced the erection of 3 houses at Hope Farm and secured Ministry approval for purposes of subsidy.

A special scheme comprising 20 houses was prepared by the Architect, the intention being to sell the houses to persons on the Council's housing lists. Over 20 applicants showed interest and it is hoped that unforeseen difficulties will soon be overcome and progress made.

CONVERSION TO WATER CLOSETS

At the end of the year, 31 earth closets remained within the district. Of these, 7 were at agricultural premises where sewerage was not readily available, and another 5 were at properties scheduled for demolition. Of the remaining 19, a total of 14 are to be converted during 1960 but it is felt that the remaining 5 can only be eradicated by action under Sec. 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby the local authority pay half of all reasonable expenses incurred.

CARAVAN SITES

There are no private sites licensed within the district under the provisions of Sec. 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The Council own and administer two caravan sites for holiday purposes only, giving accommodation for 450 caravans.

The popularity of this type of holiday increases annually and at the end of 1959 there was a long list of applicants for caravan sites. An annual survey is made of caravans on the sites in order to ensure the removal of sub-standard vans and maintain a high standard of accommodation for incoming holidaymakers.

The Council again continued their policy of annual improvements and two further blocks of toilets were completed during the year, incorporating electric lighting, wash-hand basins, deep sinks and draining boards. This now brings the total of W.C's on sites to forty-four and six urinals.

To carry out the many cleansing duties, four wardens were employed on a rota basis thus giving a seven-day-per-week service to the holiday-makers whilst refuse was collected weekly at the commencement of the season gradually building up to daily collections during the peak holidaymaking period. Continuous supervision of the sites entailed much weekend and night work by my department.

The problem of broken glass (mainly milk bottles) was partially overcome by the introduction of carton containers. I would take this opportunity to thank the milk retailers for their co-operation in this matter, and with their continued support, the only bottles on the site will be those brought by incoming holidaymakers.

Following the tragic death of one of our local boys whilst bathing, lifebuoys were erected at strategic points along the foreshore, together with floatlines and notices explaining the dangers of ebb-tide bathing. These facilities were, of course, immediately ideal targets for vandalism and after the theft of the floatlines, the lifebuoys were cut by knives and notices defaced. Despite these occurrences, further floatlines were obtained and a daily inspection of the appliances carried out.

Touring caravans were well catered for during the season for short periods, and with the increase in publicity given to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Park, it was most pleasing to see the return of Caravan Club members to Ambleside following previous visits.

The commencement of the winter season following the closure of the sites in October, brought out the usual irresponsible types, complete with air-rifles. Toilet windows, some caravan windows (and caravans), lights etc. mainly were damaged, resulting in unnecessary expenditure to repair the damage. Perhaps the day will come when this section of the community will realise that property owned by a local authority is paid for and maintained at the expense of that local community.

There are a few sites throughout the district which attract caravans for short periods, from time to time, and constant vigilance is necessary to ensure that these do not suddenly develop into unauthorised caravan sites. Informal action had to be taken in three such cases.

PARK AND OPEN SPACES

Three part-time employees were engaged in the up-keep of the park, and its perfection was in no small way due to the result of the painstaking work of these excellent workmen whose average age was seventy years. Despite the stripping of bark from trees, playing of football on the bowling green and on cricket outfield, the recreation park continued to give pleasure to a large section of the community. The Tennis Club reformed and brought in additional revenue, whilst the Ambleside Football Club added further laurels to the sporting life of the town. By their own efforts the Cricket Club relaid the wicket, and co-operated closely with the Department in the general upkeep of the cricket field.

Open spaces laid out on the Housing Estate continued to be used mainly as short-cuts, dumping grounds for rubbish, for football and parking of cars, whilst the trees planted on the open space incorporated in the 12th Housing Development were quickly uprooted and destroyed.

STREET CLEANSING AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Street cleansing was carried out during the year by two full-time employees, and all street gullies were periodically cleansed. Wet weather in the winter months brought the usual 'crop' of choked gullies caused by the accumulation of small coals attributed to the delivery of concessionary coal in the streets.

During the main holiday period, litter was a constant problem, despite the fact that the Litter Act, 1958, makes it an offence even to throw down a cigarette packet. Ice-cream retailers co-operated by providing litter bins outside their premises, and further receptacles were placed at main points near the Little Shore, Promenade and Links. Arrangements were in hand at the end of the year for the Council to continue an agreement for the provision of free litter bins bearing advertisements. It is hoped to have these in position by mid 1960.

The two public conveniences in Turner Street and High Street were cleansed daily; whilst the night 'attendants' continued to break the glass ventilation louvres, strip coin operated locks and decorate the walls with hieroglyphics.

STREET LIGHTING

The programme of replacement of obsolete brackets with the S.S.51 type enclosed lantern continued during 1959. The Links Road, Albert Street and Acklington Road were converted to this type lantern, and on Bisley Road extensions and the Links Estate (12th Development), concrete columns with 'swan-neck' units were erected. Renewals in the harbour area included bulkhead units under the bridges, and swan-neck brackets at the War Memorial, Coquet Street and Queen Street.

A total of 304 street lamps are now installed throughout the district, and during the year, 364 bulb replacements were made.

With the approach of winter, bulb replacements soared to an unprecedented level (111 in December) due to vandalism. The Links Road area suffered extensively under the hail of small arms fire, and all the new replacement lanterns are now shattered beyond belief resulting in an unnecessary expense to the ratepayers.

Although it has not been possible to launch out on any major improvement scheme, the system is gradually being improved, modernised and made more effective. The Council should now consider installing entirely new lighting in those streets where the Electricity Board's cables are underground, allowing for the removal of unsightly street poles.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of household and trade refuse was made throughout the year together with a weekly cleansing of the earth closets. As the area is a predominantly mining district and in receipt of concessionary coal, all refuse is of a heavy nature.

Collection was made with a diesel powered 7 cu.yd. Karrier Bantam vehicle, whilst an additional 7 cu.yd. Karrier Bantam (used normally for highways repair work) was brought into use when frequently required, due to mechanical faults.

Refuse disposal was carried out during the summer at The Braid where low-lying land is being reclaimed preparatory to seeding. During the spring and winter months, tipping was done at the Old Quarry, and very gradually this area is being filled in although there is still an approximate capacity for 20,000 cubic yards of refuse. Efforts were made toward the end of the year to seek surplus soil from the new water installations at Workworth, but to date very little has been available.

One full-time employee was engaged on these controlled tips, and mechanical plan was hired occasionally for levelling purposes.

Waste paper was disposed of by burning, and all condemned meat and other foods were buried.

The nett cost of collection and disposal (at 31st March, 1960) amounted to £3457. 0. Od. and can be summarised as follows:-

Population estimate	Number of Weekly Collections House Trade		Method of Collection	Total Cost
4,900	1	1	1 x 7 cu. yd. side loading vehicle	£3,457

Collection and Disposal Costs

Total Cost	Number of houses	Cost per house	Cost per head of population
£3,457	1,637	£2. 2. 4d.	14/-

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The duties under the Act are carried out by this Department in conjunction with greatly appreciated help of the County Fire Prevention Department. All premises were inspected during the year, the inspections being based on the recommendations contained in the "Home Office Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions for Petrol Filling Stations 1957". The Code was adopted by the Council as from 1st January, 1960.

Fifteen licences were issued during 1959 to store petroleum and/or other inflammable material.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

161 visits were made by your Inspectors to slaughterhouses during the year, for the purpose of meat inspection to give 100% inspection, and 35 visits were made to food shops for the inspection of food unfit for human consumption. In addition, occasional visits for meat inspection were made to slaughterhouses in the areas of adjoining authorities but only under emergency conditions. Fortunately, there is a reciprocal agreement between the officers of the authorities concerned, and help would be forthcoming to Amble if and when required.

The following table gives figures of animals slaughtered during the year within the Urban District:-

	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Ewes	Sheep and Lambs	Sows	Tups
Number killed	354	15	2	189	14	1480	1	2
Number inspected	354	15	2	189	14	1480	1	2
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>								
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	144	8	1	-	1	9	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>								
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>								
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Total amount of meat condemned = 1 ton, 0 cwts. 1 qr., composed mainly of offal.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two slaughterhouses registered within the Urban District both being privately owned.

In connection with the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, a commencement was made on the report which has to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, as required by Section 3 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, within twelve months from the 2nd November, 1959.

SLAUGHTERMEN

Sixteen licences to slaughter or stun animals were issued during the year, and of these, 3 required the applicant to slaughter or stun animals under supervision only.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular visits were made to the 57 food premises in the district, and any contraventions or deficiencies were brought to the notice of the owner or person in charge as necessary. Of the 57 food premises, 19 are licensed under Section 16 for the storage of prepacked ice-cream intended for sale.

No clean food guilds exist in the district, but lectures have been given by invitation to Church Youth Groups, Mothers' Clubs etc. which have invariably been well received judging by the number of questions asked on completion of the talk.

All condemned food is burned or buried at the controlled tip, and during the year a total of 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 12 lbs. of assorted tinned foods were disposed of by this method.

It was not found necessary to institute proceedings for contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

MILK AND DAIRIES

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, included Amble Urban District within a designated area under The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order, 1958. This Order became operative on 14th April, 1958, and it is now illegal for any person to sell by retail for human consumption, any milk other than "specially designated milk".

"Specially designated" milks are tuberculin tested milk which is untreated and pasteurised and sterilised milks which are treated by heat.

During the year, the following Dealer's licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949 to 1953:-

Pasteurised	8
Sterilised	6

and under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 to 1954:-

Tuberculin Tested	4
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PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths within the Urban District.

WATER SUPPLY

Water is derived from springs, borehole and a deep well at Hazon, together with an additional artesian supply from an N.C.B. prospecting borehole at Hartlaw which is brought by an overland pipe to discharge into the Hazon Well. The output from these sources is pumped at the average rate of 100 gallons per minute, or 144,000 gallons per day. A further borehole at Morwick supplies 69,000 gallons per day, or 48 gallons per minute.

Situated at Morwick are two storage reservoirs with a capacity of two million gallons which supply Amble U.D.C., parts of Alnwick R.D.C., the R.A.F. Station, Acklington, and, until 9th June, 1959, parts of Morpeth R.D.C.

	<u>Daily Average Consumption</u>	<u>Yearly Total</u>
Acklington R.A.F.	44,947 galls.	16,136,000 galls
Alnwick R.D.C.	7,919 "	2,843,000 "
N.C.B. (for 84 days only)	6,607 "	555,000 "
Morpeth R.D.C. (for 161 days only)	68,478 "	11,025,000 "
Amble U.D.C.	136,351 "	48,950,000 "
Totals	264,302 galls.	79,509,000 galls.

The metal casing of the Hartlaw bore commenced leaking during March, causing the artesian flow to fail and thus necessitating pumping by means of a mobile Coventry Climax pump which is normally used as a standby for the Hazon electric pumps. To keep this source of water, the pump was manned constantly until the borehole was temporarily protected by the insertion of an inner tube reduced to 4" diameter, and with the transfer of parts of Morpeth R.D.C. and Broomhill N.C.B. to the Tynemouth supply, the demand on the water resources subsequently fell and enabled a build up of water in the resevoirs towards the end of the year.

The drought-like conditions of the summer months (average annual rainfall 28 inches) (1959 total rainfall 21.16 inches) necessitated the issue of warning notices on 10th June, 1959. These prohibited the wasting of water, washing of vehicles, watering of gardens etc. and enabled a constant supply to be maintained.

For the first time, the Morwick borehole had a thorough clean out by surging with Calgon and this process will prolong the life of the borehole if it is repeated from time to time.

Normal maintenance, including repairs to and cleaning of pumps and other plant was carried out whilst burst mains, and other services were expeditiously attended to. New mains were laid at the Bisley Road housing scheme.

Chlorination of water supplies were satisfactorily operated by means of an electrically operated reagent feeder installed during 1958, and threshold treatment continued using Calgon. This method of water softening has already had the desired effect in relation to the number of back boiler replacements made in Council houses, these repairs having dropped considerably since introducing the scheme, i.e. Boiler Replacements, 1958 - 71, Boiler Replacements, 1959 - 42.

Samples of water were submitted regularly to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, a total of 25 samples being submitted. Of these, 17 had no faecal count, and the remainder showed insignificantly small counts which upon immediate re-sampling, invariably produced bacteriologically free water.

Chemical analysis of the "mixed" waters (i.e. Hazon Well and Springs, Hartlaw and Morwick Boreholes) was made during the year giving the following analysis:-

Colour	-	(Hazon degrees 5) ex. pale yellow
Appearance	-	Clear
Taste	-	Satisfactory
Smell	-	Satisfactory

General Chemical Examination:-

Reaction, pH.....	7.4 parts per million
Free Carbon Dioxide as CO ₂	19
Ammoniacal Nitrogen as N.....	None
Albuminoid Nitrogen as N.....	Trace
Nitrous Nitrogen as N.....	None
Nitric Nitrogen as N.....	0.40

Hardness (test used = E.D.T.A.) as CaCO₃

Temporary.....	205
Permanent.....	46
Permanganate figure (4 hours, 80°F) as O.....	1.0
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	205
Total Solids.....	320

Mineral Analysis:

Calcium as Ca.....	60
Magnesium as Mg	24.5
Sodium as Na	27.7
Carbonate as CO ₃	123.0
Chloride as Cl.....	35.5
Sulphate as SO ₄	53.6
Nitrate as NO ₃	1.8
Iron	0.1
Flouride as F	0.7

A preliminary meeting with the object of considering the formation of a North Northumberland Water Board to include the Urban District of Amble, was held at Berwick on the 8th July, 1959, but the suggestion did not receive a favourable reception. According to press reports, most local authorities included in the above area have since found it more profitable to negotiate water supply terms with either the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Board or Tynemouth Corporation.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	6	19	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority	19	57	-	-
3. Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	81	-	-
Totals	28	157	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were insti- tuted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	-	1	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	1	-
Totals	1	1	-	1	-

The number of factories on the register totalled 28. Of these, 6 are 'non-power' factories, and 19 are 'power' factories, whilst other premises (building sites etc.) total 3. One hundred and fifty-seven visits were made during the year resulting in eight offences against the Act being remedied. This work has been facilitated by the ready co-operation which has been extended at all times by Her Majesty's Inspector for the District.

There are no outworkers registered in the District.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956. SANITARY CONVENIENCES ON FARMS

Visits were made to farms within the District to secure compliance with the above Act. At the seven farms, sanitary accommodation is available for workers, and arrangements for seasonal outworkers were found to be reasonable.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, responsibility for the control of rats and mice in Urban and Rural areas was placed on local authorities, and the rat contract service previously carried out by the County Agricultural Executive Committees was discontinued on 31st March, 1959.

Treatment was carried out on receipt of complaints both at private and business premises, the latter being charged on a "Time and material" basis. All sewers were baited twice during the year, and except for isolated "takes" there was no evidence of major infestations.

Two visits were made to each farm within the district during the year to ascertain action being taken for eradication of rats and mice. At each of the seven farms, no evidence of infestation was found and stocks of "warfarin" were kept in anticipation of any infestation.

The following statistics, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, show action taken during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1959:-

	Type of Property				Agri- cultural
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural			
		Dwelling houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)	All other (inc. business premises) (3)	Total of 1, 2 & 3 (4)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
1. Number of properties in local authority's district	6	1532	307	1845	16
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) notification	-	15	1	16	-
(b) Survey under the Act	-	46	12	58	8
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose	6	537	198	741	8
4. Number of properties inspected in (2) which were found to be infested by:-					
(a) Rats (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	2	37	1	40	2
(b) Mice (Major	-	-	-	-	-
(Minor	-	6	-	6	-
5. Number of infested properties in (4) treated by L.A.	2	43	1	46	-
6. Number of notices served under Sec. 4 of the Act	-	-	-	-	-
7. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	-	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF OTHER WORK EFFECTED

Dustbins provided	18
Dustbins renewed	14
Drains cleansed or repaired	63
Water Closet structures repaired	7
Floors repaired or renewed	5
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	3
Windows repaired	9
Doors repaired	4
External walls repaired	8
Chimneys repaired	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified to the Department by the Medical Officer of Health when visits were made:-

Dysentery	18
Scarlet Fever	3

44 Specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Houses, Public Health Acts and Housing Acts; Visits	427
Complaints investigated (excluding Council house repairs)	119
Visits to Property under Notice	37
Factories - Mechanical Power	19
Factories - No mechanical Power	57
Infectious Disease Cases	75
Drainage Work	152
Shops Act	138
Bakehouses	29
Fried Fish Shops	6
Other Food preparation	16
Butchers' shops	145
Meat Inspection	161
Rodent Control (Survey under the Act)	70
Refuse Tip	72
Interviews with owners - Housing	111
Interviews with owners - Caravans	419
Caravan Sites - visits	629
Building Sites - Council	281
Building Sites - Private	208
Waterworks - visits	47
Unsound food	35
Council House repairs	403
Total	<u>3656</u>

MISCELLANEOUS

For record purposes I wish to mention a few miscellaneous points of interest taken at random from the year's diary, as follows:-

The annual inspection of Council house gardens was made as in previous years and the general standard continues to rise which makes the judging more difficult than ever. Only a very small proportion of gardens are neglected, but it is hoped that the Council will take action to enforce the cleaning up of these.

Demolition of the condemned houses at Marks Row commenced in December, but so far no proposals have come forward for redevelopment.

A visit was paid to Blyth for the purpose of inspecting the reclaimed parts of the foreshore brought about by the planting of Marram grass. The season was well advanced, but a small area of planting was undertaken at Amble foreshore. It is expected that bigger programmes of Marram grass planting will be undertaken in future years.

Thanks are due to the National Coal Board for removing the bridge to the Old Brickworks in Coquet/Leazes Street in October, thus ridding the town of another danger spot.

Nuisances dealt with included the removal of dog and seal carcasses from the beach, the theft of iron plates from the Braid Tip, and noise, fumes, radio interference etc. by the extended use of the open space in Coquet Street as a fairground.

Tidal flood warnings continued to be received at intervals but only one bad case of flooding really took place.

